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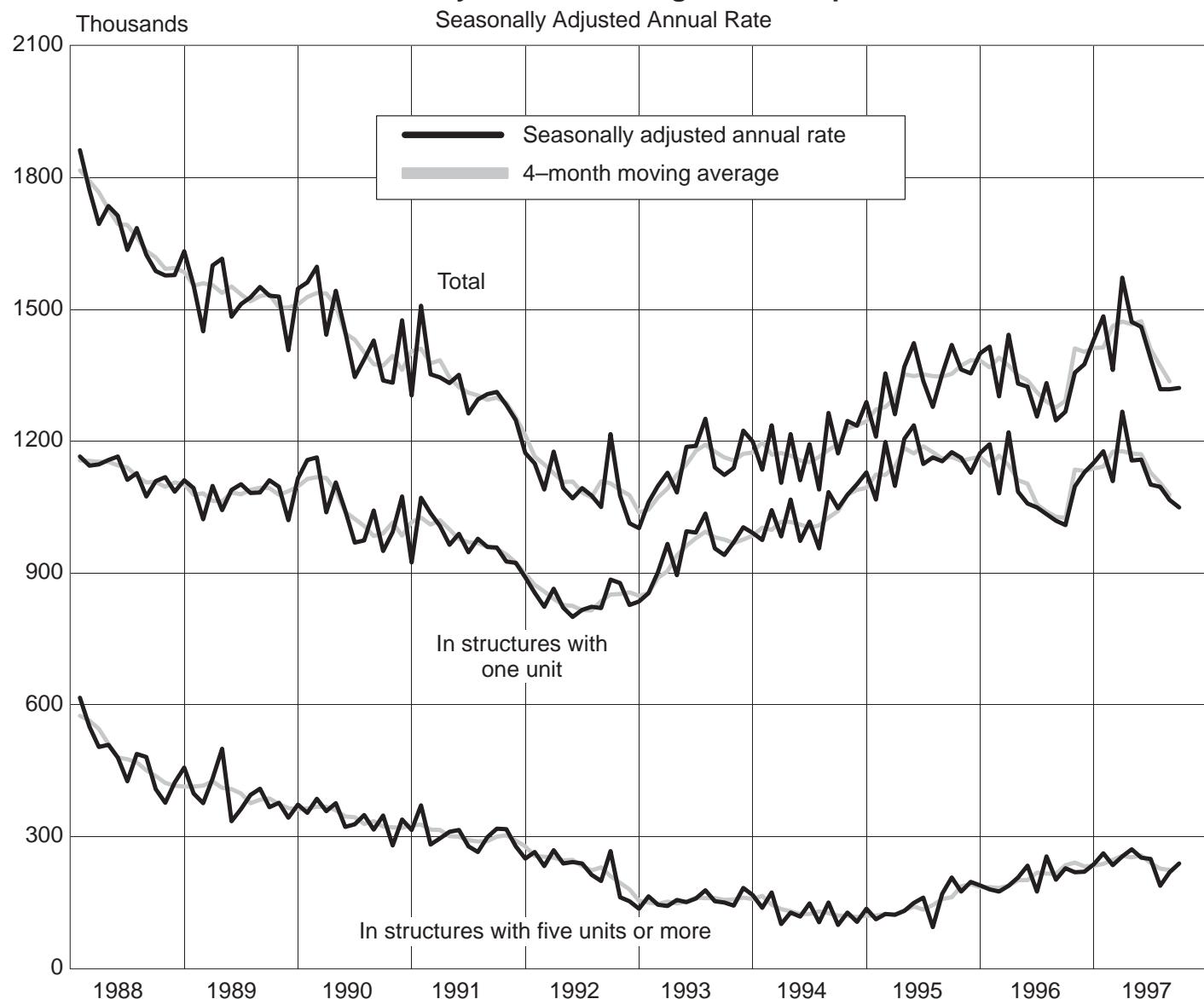
Housing Completions

AUGUST 1997

C22/97-8

Issued October 1997

New Privately Owned Housing Units Completed



Note: Total includes units in structures with two to four units.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Completions.

Questions regarding these data may be directed to **Dale Jacobson**, Residential Construction Branch, Telephone 301-457-4703.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This report provides monthly statistics on the number of new privately owned housing units completed and under construction. This report is released jointly by the Bureau of the Census and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Privately owned housing units were completed in August 1997 at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,321,000. This is virtually unchanged (± 7 percent) from the July rate of 1,318,000, but 9 (± 6) percent below the August 1996 rate of 1,449,000.

The August 1997 rate of single-family housing completions was 1,049,000; this is 2 (± 6) percent below the revised July rate of 1,066,000. The August rate for units in buildings with five units or more was 239,000. The August rate for units in buildings with two to four units was 33,000.

During the first 8 months of this year, 883,400 housing units were completed compared with 896,300 units for the same period in 1996. This is a decrease of 1 (± 2) percent.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of housing units under construction at the end of August was 830,000; this is virtually unchanged (± 1 percent) from the revised July figure of 834,000. Of the housing units under construction at the end of August, 566,000 were single-family structures, 239,000 were in buildings with five units or more, and 25,000 were in buildings with two to four units.

In interpreting changes in the seasonally adjusted rates of housing completions, note that month-to-month changes may reflect movements which may be irregular. It may take 3 months to establish an underlying trend for total completions.

The statistics in this release are estimated from sample surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimated average relative standard errors of preliminary data are shown in the tables. Whenever a statement such as "2 (± 3) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-1 to +5 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given for percent changes are 90-percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range contains zero, it is unclear whether there was an increase or decrease; that is, the change is not statistically significant. For any comparison cited without a confidence interval, the change is statistically significant. The January 1997 issue of Current Construction Reports, C22/97-1 includes explanations of confidence intervals and sampling variability. On average, the preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates of total housing completions are revised about ± 1 percent.

Housing completions and under construction statistics do not include mobile home units.

HISTORICAL DATA

Housing completions data have been collected only since 1968; however, housing starts are available from 1889 to the present date. Historical data on housing starts and residential permit authorizations are available from Residential Construction Branch, Manufacturing and Construction Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-6900. Telephone 301-457-4666.

Table 1. New Privately Owned Housing Units Completed

[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period | Total | In structures with— | | | | Inside MSAs ¹ | Outside MSAs ¹ | North-east | Midwest | South | West |
|---|-------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | 1 unit | 2 units | 3 and 4 units | 5 units or more | | | | | | |
| ANNUAL DATA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | 1,668.8 | 1,122.8 | 29.0 | 42.4 | 474.6 | 1,420.4 | 248.4 | 257.4 | 302.3 | 660.4 | 448.7 |
| 1988 | 1,529.8 | 1,084.6 | 23.5 | 33.2 | 388.6 | 1,286.1 | 243.7 | 250.2 | 280.3 | 594.8 | 404.6 |
| 1989 | 1,422.8 | 1,026.3 | 24.1 | 34.6 | 337.9 | 1,181.2 | 241.7 | 218.8 | 267.1 | 549.4 | 387.5 |
| 1990 | 1,308.0 | 966.0 | 16.5 | 28.2 | 297.3 | 1,060.2 | 247.7 | 157.7 | 263.3 | 510.7 | 376.3 |
| 1991 | 1,090.8 | 837.6 | 16.9 | 19.7 | 216.6 | 862.1 | 228.7 | 120.1 | 240.4 | 438.9 | 291.3 |
| 1992 | 1,157.5 | 963.6 | 15.1 | 20.8 | 158.0 | 909.5 | 248.0 | 136.4 | 268.4 | 462.4 | 290.3 |
| 1993 | 1,192.7 | 1,039.4 | 9.5 | 16.7 | 127.1 | 943.0 | 249.8 | 117.6 | 273.3 | 512.0 | 290.0 |
| 1994 | 1,346.9 | 1,160.3 | 12.1 | 19.5 | 154.9 | 1,086.3 | 260.6 | 123.4 | 307.1 | 580.9 | 335.5 |
| 1995 | 1,312.6 | 1,065.5 | 14.8 | 19.8 | 212.4 | 1,065.0 | 247.6 | 126.9 | 287.9 | 581.1 | 316.7 |
| 1996 | 1,412.9 | 1,128.5 | 13.6 | 19.5 | 251.3 | 1,163.4 | 249.4 | 125.1 | 304.5 | 637.1 | 346.2 |
| MONTHLY DATA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996: January | 99.3 | 79.4 | 0.6 | 1.4 | 17.9 | 81.9 | 17.4 | 8.4 | 21.0 | 43.9 | 26.0 |
| February | 91.0 | 72.3 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 16.6 | 76.3 | 14.7 | 9.2 | 15.2 | 41.9 | 24.7 |
| March | 103.1 | 83.7 | 0.6 | 1.8 | 17.1 | 85.2 | 17.9 | 6.6 | 20.0 | 49.7 | 26.8 |
| April | 101.9 | 80.3 | 0.7 | 1.4 | 19.4 | 86.4 | 15.6 | 8.8 | 22.9 | 45.9 | 24.3 |
| May | 114.6 | 91.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 20.7 | 97.0 | 17.6 | 9.2 | 22.6 | 53.3 | 29.5 |
| June | 125.9 | 98.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 25.9 | 102.0 | 23.9 | 10.9 | 27.8 | 56.6 | 30.5 |
| July | 126.3 | 97.6 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 25.9 | 104.3 | 22.0 | 9.3 | 29.9 | 56.3 | 30.8 |
| August | 134.1 | 104.1 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 26.1 | 111.0 | 23.1 | 11.0 | 30.3 | 61.4 | 31.4 |
| September | 122.1 | 99.6 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 19.0 | 98.4 | 23.7 | 11.7 | 27.4 | 51.3 | 31.7 |
| October | 129.9 | 108.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 19.4 | 105.1 | 24.8 | 13.2 | 27.1 | 59.7 | 30.0 |
| November | 122.7 | 99.2 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 19.1 | 98.3 | 24.4 | 13.5 | 30.0 | 52.3 | 27.0 |
| December | 141.8 | 113.9 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 24.2 | 117.6 | 24.3 | 13.3 | 30.3 | 64.7 | 33.6 |
| 1997: January | 95.7 | 78.9 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 15.5 | 79.1 | 16.6 | 8.5 | 21.2 | 41.6 | 24.4 |
| February | 104.8 | 84.8 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 16.7 | 85.7 | 19.1 | 10.5 | 20.5 | 49.0 | 24.7 |
| March | 109.6 | 87.4 | 1.2 | 2.4 | 18.6 | 90.7 | 19.0 | 13.4 | 19.0 | 51.9 | 25.4 |
| April | 110.8 | 86.8 | 1.4 | 2.7 | 19.8 | 89.4 | 21.4 | 8.6 | 23.1 | 52.8 | 26.2 |
| May | 113.6 | 90.1 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 20.4 | 93.8 | 19.8 | 12.7 | 22.8 | 49.0 | 29.0 |
| June ^r | 113.8 | 94.2 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 17.0 | 95.9 | 18.0 | 10.7 | 24.5 | 50.4 | 28.3 |
| July ^r | 112.9 | 89.1 | 0.8 | 2.3 | 20.7 | 94.8 | 18.0 | 11.5 | 24.4 | 49.5 | 27.5 |
| August ^p | 118.4 | 91.1 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 24.2 | 98.2 | 20.2 | 10.0 | 27.4 | 53.3 | 27.8 |
| Year to date: 1996 | 896.3 | 707.3 | 7.4 | 12.0 | 169.6 | 744.0 | 152.3 | 73.4 | 189.8 | 409.1 | 224.0 |
| 1997 | 879.6 | 702.5 | 8.6 | 15.5 | 153.0 | 727.5 | 152.1 | 86.0 | 182.9 | 397.6 | 213.2 |
| Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996: January | 1,427 | 1,130 | 28 | | 269 | (NA) | (NA) | 114 | 332 | 622 | 359 |
| February | 1,329 | 1,050 | 31 | | 248 | (NA) | (NA) | 137 | 247 | 592 | 353 |
| March | 1,382 | 1,102 | 28 | | 252 | (NA) | (NA) | 97 | 303 | 627 | 355 |
| April | 1,351 | 1,074 | 26 | | 251 | (NA) | (NA) | 117 | 302 | 612 | 320 |
| May | 1,409 | 1,124 | 25 | | 260 | (NA) | (NA) | 118 | 283 | 645 | 363 |
| June | 1,426 | 1,137 | 24 | | 265 | (NA) | (NA) | 127 | 304 | 639 | 356 |
| July | 1,463 | 1,161 | 30 | | 272 | (NA) | (NA) | 105 | 351 | 656 | 351 |
| August | 1,449 | 1,153 | 43 | | 253 | (NA) | (NA) | 126 | 313 | 661 | 349 |
| September | 1,356 | 1,097 | 40 | | 219 | (NA) | (NA) | 132 | 285 | 586 | 353 |
| October | 1,375 | 1,129 | 26 | | 220 | (NA) | (NA) | 131 | 274 | 642 | 328 |
| November | 1,431 | 1,151 | 43 | | 237 | (NA) | (NA) | 144 | 328 | 639 | 320 |
| December | 1,484 | 1,177 | 45 | | 262 | (NA) | (NA) | 137 | 322 | 681 | 344 |
| 1997: January | 1,362 | 1,109 | 18 | | 235 | (NA) | (NA) | 117 | 316 | 588 | 341 |
| February | 1,572 | 1,267 | 50 | | 255 | (NA) | (NA) | 163 | 338 | 715 | 356 |
| March | 1,471 | 1,156 | 44 | | 271 | (NA) | (NA) | 193 | 290 | 654 | 334 |
| April | 1,460 | 1,158 | 50 | | 252 | (NA) | (NA) | 120 | 302 | 691 | 347 |
| May | 1,388 | 1,101 | 38 | | 249 | (NA) | (NA) | 161 | 286 | 596 | 345 |
| June ^r | 1,317 | 1,095 | 34 | | 188 | (NA) | (NA) | 126 | 276 | 582 | 333 |
| July ^r | 1,311 | 1,060 | 34 | | 217 | (NA) | (NA) | 129 | 283 | 580 | 319 |
| August ^p | 1,289 | 1,022 | 34 | | 233 | (NA) | (NA) | 118 | 287 | 572 | 312 |
| AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS² | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Annual | (percent).. | 1 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Monthly | (percent).. | 3 | 3 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 5 |
| Year to date | (percent).. | 1 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

NA Not available. ^rPreliminary. ^pRevised.¹Metropolitan statistical areas.²Average Relative Standard Errors (Avg. RSE): Annual—Avg. RSE for the last 2 years; Year to date—Avg. RSE for the current period and the same period last year; Monthly—Avg. RSE for the latest 6-month period (January through June or July through December).

Table 3. New Privately Owned Housing Units Under Construction

[Thousands of units. Detail may not add to total because of rounding]

| Period | Total | In structures with— | | | | Inside MSAs ¹ | Outside MSAs ¹ | North-east | Midwest | South | West | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 1 unit | 2 units | 3 and 4 units | 5 units or more | | | | | | | |
| ANNUAL DATA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | 987.3 | 590.6 | 17.3 | 22.5 | 356.9 | 820.6 | 166.7 | 221.7 | 158.7 | 342.5 | 264.4 | |
| 1988 | 919.4 | 569.6 | 16.1 | 24.1 | 309.5 | 757.5 | 161.9 | 201.6 | 148.1 | 308.2 | 261.6 | |
| 1989 | 850.3 | 535.1 | 11.9 | 25.1 | 278.1 | 686.7 | 163.6 | 158.8 | 145.5 | 282.1 | 263.9 | |
| 1990 | 711.4 | 449.1 | 10.9 | 15.1 | 236.3 | 553.9 | 157.5 | 121.6 | 133.4 | 242.3 | 214.1 | |
| 1991 | 606.3 | 433.5 | 9.1 | 14.5 | 149.2 | 458.4 | 147.9 | 103.9 | 122.4 | 208.5 | 171.6 | |
| 1992 | 612.4 | 472.7 | 5.6 | 11.3 | 122.8 | 453.1 | 159.4 | 81.4 | 137.8 | 228.4 | 164.8 | |
| 1993 | 680.1 | 543.0 | 6.5 | 12.4 | 118.2 | 521.0 | 159.1 | 89.3 | 154.4 | 265.4 | 170.9 | |
| 1994 | 762.2 | 557.8 | 9.1 | 12.9 | 182.5 | 597.6 | 164.5 | 96.3 | 173.5 | 312.1 | 180.3 | |
| 1995 | 775.9 | 547.2 | 8.4 | 12.7 | 207.7 | 620.1 | 155.8 | 86.3 | 172.0 | 331.4 | 186.3 | |
| 1996 | 792.3 | 550.0 | 9.0 | 19.1 | 214.3 | 629.9 | 162.4 | 85.2 | 178.0 | 337.6 | 191.4 | |
| MONTHLY DATA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996: | January | 763.7 | 533.7 | 7.6 | 11.9 | 210.4 | 613.6 | 150.1 | 82.9 | 165.5 | 328.9 | 186.3 |
| | February | 765.8 | 533.1 | 7.8 | 11.7 | 213.3 | 618.0 | 147.8 | 79.8 | 163.4 | 332.7 | 189.9 |
| | March | 772.8 | 544.0 | 8.1 | 10.8 | 209.9 | 620.5 | 152.3 | 82.6 | 164.5 | 335.7 | 190.0 |
| | April | 813.5 | 578.4 | 9.2 | 13.2 | 212.7 | 652.6 | 160.9 | 86.5 | 172.3 | 352.5 | 202.2 |
| | May | 835.2 | 595.5 | 9.7 | 14.4 | 215.7 | 667.1 | 168.2 | 88.4 | 181.0 | 361.7 | 204.1 |
| | June | 845.1 | 610.5 | 10.2 | 16.4 | 208.0 | 672.9 | 172.2 | 90.4 | 183.6 | 363.2 | 208.0 |
| | July | 853.3 | 619.9 | 9.9 | 17.8 | 205.7 | 677.4 | 175.9 | 93.9 | 188.3 | 364.2 | 206.9 |
| | August | 857.0 | 627.3 | 9.2 | 16.1 | 204.4 | 678.6 | 178.4 | 94.3 | 192.7 | 359.3 | 210.6 |
| | September | 858.9 | 624.5 | 10.3 | 15.0 | 209.1 | 680.0 | 178.9 | 93.7 | 193.4 | 364.4 | 207.5 |
| | October | 855.1 | 614.0 | 10.8 | 16.7 | 213.6 | 677.2 | 177.9 | 92.4 | 195.1 | 357.2 | 210.3 |
| | November | 843.3 | 596.7 | 9.3 | 19.2 | 218.2 | 671.7 | 171.7 | 88.8 | 191.1 | 356.5 | 207.0 |
| | December | 792.3 | 550.0 | 9.0 | 19.1 | 214.3 | 629.9 | 162.4 | 85.2 | 178.0 | 337.6 | 191.4 |
| 1997: | January | 777.2 | 536.2 | 9.1 | 19.0 | 212.8 | 621.7 | 155.5 | 84.8 | 167.0 | 335.8 | 189.6 |
| | February | 763.7 | 524.1 | 9.1 | 17.5 | 213.1 | 615.2 | 148.5 | 80.1 | 162.3 | 333.1 | 188.2 |
| | March | 772.9 | 530.7 | 8.7 | 17.5 | 216.0 | 625.5 | 147.4 | 77.8 | 164.9 | 336.6 | 193.6 |
| | April | 799.8 | 551.2 | 8.9 | 16.5 | 223.2 | 649.2 | 150.6 | 82.1 | 169.6 | 348.4 | 199.7 |
| | May | 820.0 | 566.6 | 8.9 | 16.2 | 228.3 | 663.7 | 156.3 | 81.4 | 178.0 | 356.3 | 204.3 |
| | June ^r | 845.0 | 579.7 | 8.7 | 17.3 | 239.3 | 680.0 | 165.0 | 82.2 | 185.5 | 367.1 | 210.1 |
| | July ^r | 864.6 | 596.7 | 9.6 | 16.4 | 241.9 | 694.2 | 170.4 | 84.9 | 191.0 | 375.5 | 213.3 |
| | August ^p | 868.7 | 603.1 | 9.4 | 16.5 | 239.7 | 697.2 | 171.5 | 86.6 | 191.0 | 376.5 | 214.7 |
| Seasonally Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1996: | January | 802 | 568 | 20 | | 214 | (NA) | (NA) | 87 | 176 | 345 | 194 |
| | February | 798 | 566 | 19 | | 213 | (NA) | (NA) | 83 | 179 | 339 | 197 |
| | March | 814 | 580 | 20 | | 214 | (NA) | (NA) | 88 | 180 | 347 | 199 |
| | April | 825 | 590 | 23 | | 212 | (NA) | (NA) | 89 | 180 | 352 | 204 |
| | May | 826 | 590 | 24 | | 212 | (NA) | (NA) | 90 | 180 | 353 | 203 |
| | June | 826 | 594 | 25 | | 207 | (NA) | (NA) | 88 | 180 | 354 | 204 |
| | July | 825 | 593 | 27 | | 205 | (NA) | (NA) | 91 | 180 | 352 | 202 |
| | August | 820 | 593 | 24 | | 203 | (NA) | (NA) | 90 | 181 | 347 | 202 |
| | September | 825 | 592 | 25 | | 208 | (NA) | (NA) | 90 | 183 | 354 | 198 |
| | October | 825 | 588 | 26 | | 211 | (NA) | (NA) | 89 | 183 | 352 | 201 |
| | November | 828 | 584 | 28 | | 216 | (NA) | (NA) | 86 | 182 | 355 | 205 |
| | December | 815 | 571 | 28 | | 216 | (NA) | (NA) | 86 | 180 | 350 | 199 |
| 1997: | January | 818 | 573 | 29 | | 216 | (NA) | (NA) | 88 | 179 | 352 | 199 |
| | February | 821 | 574 | 28 | | 219 | (NA) | (NA) | 86 | 182 | 351 | 202 |
| | March | 814 | 566 | 27 | | 221 | (NA) | (NA) | 84 | 179 | 349 | 202 |
| | April | 812 | 563 | 26 | | 223 | (NA) | (NA) | 84 | 178 | 349 | 201 |
| | May | 815 | 564 | 26 | | 225 | (NA) | (NA) | 83 | 179 | 349 | 204 |
| | June ^r | 830 | 567 | 26 | | 237 | (NA) | (NA) | 82 | 183 | 359 | 206 |
| | July ^r | 837 | 571 | 25 | | 241 | (NA) | (NA) | 82 | 183 | 363 | 209 |
| | August ^p | 833 | 569 | 24 | | 240 | (NA) | (NA) | 82 | 180 | 365 | 206 |
| AVERAGE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS² | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| End of period | (percent).. | 1 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

NA Not available. ^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.¹Metropolitan statistical areas.²Average Relative Standard Errors: Average for the latest 6-month period (January through June or July through December).

Table 5. Seasonal Indexes Used to Adjust Housing Units Completed

| Period | United States implicit index ¹ | In structures with— | | | | | | All units | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | 1 unit | | | | 2 to 4 units | 5 units or more | North-east | Midwest | South | West |
| | | North-east | Midwest | South | West | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May..... | 98.2 | 94.2 | 94.5 | 99.2 | 101.8 | 94.0 | 98.7 | 95.8 | 96.2 | 99.0 | 101.4 |
| June ^a | 103.7 | 102.7 | 104.8 | 102.8 | 103.1 | 92.0 | 108.7 | 101.7 | 105.7 | 103.2 | 101.3 |
| July ^a | 103.3 | 97.0 | 101.0 | 101.9 | 100.0 | 109.0 | 114.3 | 107.2 | 103.9 | 102.9 | 103.8 |
| August ^b | 110.3 | 102.1 | 108.0 | 108.6 | 105.2 | 108.7 | 124.4 | 100.8 | 114.0 | 111.6 | 106.9 |

^aPreliminary. ^bRevised.¹The implicit seasonal index is the ratio of the unadjusted number of housing units completed in the United States to the seasonally adjusted national total of housing units completed. It provides an indication of the overall seasonality for the particular month.

Note: These seasonal indexes include trading-day adjustment factors.

Table 6. Seasonal Indexes Used to Adjust Housing Units Under Construction

| Period | United States implicit index ¹ | In structures with— | | | | | | All units | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-------|-------|
| | | 1 unit | | | | 2 to 4 units | 5 units or more | North-east | Midwest | South | West |
| | | North-east | Midwest | South | West | | | | | | |
| 1997 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| May..... | 100.6 | 98.5 | 98.9 | 102.0 | 100.3 | 98.5 | 101.4 | 99.0 | 99.8 | 102.2 | 100.6 |
| June ^a | 101.8 | 100.7 | 102.5 | 102.9 | 102.7 | 102.6 | 101.0 | 101.3 | 101.8 | 102.6 | 102.5 |
| July ^a | 103.3 | 105.0 | 106.1 | 104.1 | 104.2 | 100.6 | 100.4 | 103.9 | 104.6 | 103.8 | 102.8 |
| August ^b | 104.3 | 106.5 | 108.2 | 104.5 | 106.0 | 103.3 | 100.0 | 105.6 | 106.0 | 103.3 | 104.2 |

^aPreliminary. ^bRevised.¹The implicit seasonal index is the ratio of the unadjusted number of housing units under construction in the United States to the seasonally adjusted national total of housing units under construction. It provides an indication of the overall seasonality for the particular month.

Note: These seasonal indexes include trading-day adjustment factors.